

Newmarket Rural District

IN THE

Administrative County of Cambridge.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,

FOR

1938.

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To the Chairman and Members
of the
Newmarket Rural District Council.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present for your consideration my Annual Report for the year 1938 on the Health, Sanitary Conditions, and Vital Statistics of the Newmarket Rural District. The Report is an Ordinary one drawn up in accordance with the requirements of the Ministry of Health as specified in Circular 1728 dated October 25th, 1938.

ARTHUR MORGAN,

May, 1939.

Medical Officer of Health.

GENERAL STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Area : Land 80,856 acres.
 Water 245 „ .

Number of parishes : 22.

Estimated resident population : 18,820.

Number of inhabited houses according to the Rate Books : 5,976.

Rateable Value : £56,685.

Sum represented by a penny rate : £223.

The district is of an agricultural character and there are no special trades or industries other than those associated with agricultural occupations and the breeding of racehorses.

VITAL STATISTICS.

LIVE BIRTHS :

		Total	Male	Female
Legitimate	...	255	138	117
Illegitimate	...	6	6	—
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	Totals	261	144	117
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

			1938	1937	1936
Birth Rate per thousand of the estimated					
resident population	...	...	13'8	15'2	14'5
Birth Rate per thousand resident population					
(England and Wales)	...	...	15'1	14'9	14'8

STILL BIRTHS :

		Total	Male	Female
Legitimate	...	12	4	8
Illegitimate	...	—	—	—
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	Total	12	4	8
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

		1938	1937	1936
Rates per thousand total (live and still births)		43'9	32'5	28'1

DEATHS :	Total 217	Male 107	Female 110			
				1938	1937	1936
Death Rate per thousand of the estimated resident population (uncorrected for age and sex distribution)	11·5	11·9	13·4
Corrected Death Rate	9·3	9·6	10·8
Death Rate per thousand population (England and Wales)	11·6	12·4	12·1
Deaths from Puerperal causes : Nil.						

Number of deaths of infants under 1 year of age :

	Total	Male	Female
Legitimate	5	4	1
Illegitimate	—	—	—
Totals	5	4	1

Death Rate of infants under 1 year of age :

	1938	1937	1936
(a) All infants per thousand live births	19·1	50·5	43·4
(b) Legitimate infants per thousand legitimate live births	19·6	51·7	41·9
(c) Illegitimate infants per thousand illegitimate live births	Nil	Nil	71·4
	1938	1937	1936
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	28	36	46
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	Nil	Nil	Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	Nil	Nil	Nil
Deaths from diarrhoea (under two years of age)	Nil	Nil	2

CLASSIFICATION OF DEATHS UNDER AGE GROUPS.

	Male	Female	Total
Under 1 year	4	1	5
1 year and under 2	—	—	—
2 years „ „ 5	1	1	2
5 „ „ „ 15	—	1	1
15 „ „ „ 25	3	1	4
25 „ „ „ 35	7	2	9
35 „ „ „ 45	5	6	11
45 „ „ „ 55	6	3	9
55 „ „ „ 65	17	20	37
65 „ „ „ 75	30	27	57
75 „ and over	34	48	82
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Totals	107	110	217

CLASSIFICATION OF DEATHS ACCORDING TO CAUSE AND SEX.

Causes of Death				Males	Fe- males	Totals
Typhoid Fever, etc.	...	...	...
Measles	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...
Whooping Cough	...	...	...
Diphtheria	...	...	...
Influenza	...	...	...	4		4
Encephalitis Lethargica	...	...	...
Cerebro Spinal Fever	...	...	...
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	...	...	...	8	1	9
Other Tuberculous Diseases	...	...	...		1	1
Syphilis	...	...	...
General Paralysis of the Insane, etc.	...	...	...
Cancer, Malignant Disease	...	...	...	15	13	28
Diabetes	...	...	...	1	6	7
Cerebral Hæmorrhage	...	...	...	5	14	19
Heart Disease	...	...	...	31	34	65
Aneurysm	...	...	...
Other Circulatory Diseases	...	...	...	9	4	13
Bronchitis	...	...	...	1		1
Pneumonia	...	...	...	5	1	6
Other Respiratory Diseases	...	...	...	2	1	3
Peptic Ulcer	...	...	...	1		1
Diarrhœa, etc. (under 2 years)	...	...	...
Appendicitis	...	...	...
Cirrhosis of Liver	...	...	...
Other Liver Diseases	...	...	...		3	3
Other Digestive Diseases	...	...	...	3	5	8
Nephritis	...	...	...	4	7	11
Puerperal Sepsis	...	...	...
Other Puerperal Causes	...	...	...
Congenital Causes, etc.	...	...	...	4		4
Senility	...	...	...		9	9
Suicide	...	...	...	1		1
Other Violence	...	...	...	2	2	4
Other Defined Causes	...	...	...	10	8	18
Ill-defined Causes	...	...	...	1	1	2
Totals				107	110	217

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY :

- (a) A whole time Medical Officer of Health who also acts for the other Rural Districts in the County of Cambridge.
- (b) Two whole time Sanitary Inspectors : Mr. A. E. Austin, Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute, and Mr. W. H. Couperthwaite, who holds the Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute and the special certificate in meat and other foods.

LABORATORY FACILITIES :

Chemical and bacteriological analyses of water are made by the Public Analyst at Cambridge. Clinical specimens for bacteriological examination are sent to Dr. W. H. Harvey, Green Street, Cambridge. Samples of Milk are dealt with at the Agricultural Department of the University of Cambridge.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES :

A motor ambulance is provided by the District Council in connection with the Isolation Hospital at Exning and is available for the transport of infectious disease. The service of the Red Cross or Police Ambulances can be obtained for cases of accident or ordinary illness. The facilities provided are adequate.

NURSING IN THE HOME	}	No alteration in the existing arrangements.
CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES		

HOSPITALS :

There are no hospitals situated in the district. So far as general hospitals are concerned Addenbrookes Hospital, Cambridge, receives most of the cases from the area. A small proportion of patients, however, are treated at the Rous Memorial Hospital, Newmarket.

Cases of infectious disease are dealt with at the Newmarket Rural District Council's Isolation Hospital, Fordham Road, Exning. Altogether there are 24 beds (including a particularly useful 8 bed cellular block) allowing 12 feet of wall space, 144 feet of floor

space, and 2000 feet of air space for each one. The Staff consists of the Matron, three Nurses, a Wardmaid, a Cook, a Housemaid, a Laundress, and the Porter who drives the ambulance and acts in a general capacity. Dr. Norman Gray, of Newmarket, is the Medical Superintendent. The hospital is well equipped and well administered. By arrangement cases are accepted from the Urban District of Newmarket. A new agreement, which continues for 30 years, was entered into with the Urban District Council in 1928. Amongst other conditions the agreement provides that no more than ten beds shall be occupied at any one time by patients from the Urban area without the consent of the Medical Officer of Health of the Rural District. When accommodation is available cases are admitted from outside districts and charged for at the rate of £2 12s. 6d. weekly plus a small sum for the use of the ambulance, if this is required. The number of admissions during the year was as follows:

Newmarket Rural District	...	48
„ Urban District	...	8
Clare Rural District	...	3
Mildenhall Rural District	...	2
Borough of Bury St. Edmunds	...	1
Total		<hr/> 62 <hr/>

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

SOUTH WESTERN PARISHES WATER SUPPLY:

In February a six-inch trial borehole was sunk to a depth of 270 feet at Swaffham Prior where the new waterworks are to be situated. The borehole was lined to a depth of 234 feet with unperforated steel tubes and passed through the following strata, greensand being reached at a depth of 244 feet:—

Top soil	...	1 foot
Hard chalk	...	35 feet
Chalk marl	...	71 feet 6 inches
Gault	...	135 feet 6 inches
Greensand and clay (mixed)		1 foot
Greensand	...	22 feet
Greensand and clay	...	1 foot
Dark clay	...	3 feet

The 14 days pumping test was commenced on the 2nd of March. Certain difficulties, however, were met with, partly due to the breakdown of the pump and partly due to the fact that when the test was recommenced the water was found to be turbid owing to the presence of silicious matter in suspension derived from the clay. Having regard to the latter circumstance the Consulting Engineer decided to cease pumping and to carry the lining of the borehole down into the greensand. Pumping was resumed on March 24th and continued at rates varying from 2,400 to 1,600 gallons per hour until March 29th. At the cessation of the test the water had become practically clear apart from a slight opalescence probably due to silicious matter derived from a certain amount of clay which had collected at the bottom of the borehole. The rest level of the water was found to be 88 feet 8 inches from the surface and the time taken for recovery to rest level after the maximum rate of pumping 25 minutes.

Work was subsequently commenced on the main borehole which is 270 feet deep, 30 inches in diameter for the first 140 feet, and 24 inches for the last 130 feet. The 14 day pumping test was completed on the 24th of October. The test was carried out at the rate of approximately 7,000 gallons per hour during each of the 14 days. The yield being kept at this rate as preliminary tests indicated that any yield above this quantity could not be obtained without drawing considerable quantities of sand from the borehole. The total hardness of the water is only 8·5 degrees and the analysts reported as follows: "This sample contains no colour and only a slight deposit consisting of mineral particles, sandy or silicious in character. The water is practically neutral in reaction, of very moderate hardness, has a fairly high, but not excessive content of salinity, and contains no metals apart from a minute trace of iron. The water is of good organic quality and a high degree of bacterial purity, and is considered wholesome in character, and suitable for drinking and domestic purposes."

The water will be pumped into a re-inforced concrete tank adjoining the well, such tank having a capacity of 200,000 gallons.

The original scheme provided for the parishes of Burwell, Bottisham, Lode, Swaffham Bulbeck and Swaffham Prior. Now, however, it has been decided to include Fordham and Isleham.

It is estimated that the cost of the scheme will be £32,900 plus £23,000 for the extensions to Fordham and Isleham.

In reply to the Ministry of Health's Circular dated May 6th, 1938, regarding prospective works of water supply during the five years ending March 31st, 1943, the District Council has submitted the following programme:—

Year.	Proposed works.	Estimated Cost
1936—1939	South Western Parishes Water Supply (Burwell, Bottisham, Lode, Swaffham Prior and Swaffham Bulbeck)	£32,900
1939—1940	Extension to Fordham and Isleham ...	£23,000
1941—1942	Supply to Chippenham, Kennett, Snailwell, Wicken and Upend	£13,000
1942—1943	Linking up of the waterworks at Saxon Street, Dullingham and Stetchworth	£2,000

So far as Chippenham, Wicken and Snailwell are concerned these parishes could be supplied by an extension of the main from Fordham. Upend can be supplied from the Saxon Street Waterworks by an extension of the main from Kirtling. Kennett can be supplied from the water mains proposed to be laid by the Mildenhall Rural District Council in the adjoining parish of Kentford. If these schemes are completed Landwade (pop. 38) will be the only parish in the area without a piped water supply.

DULLINGHAM WATERWORKS :

There are no fresh matters to report concerning this waterworks. The lime softening plant has continued to give satisfaction. The water has been regularly analysed and is reported to be free from deposit, comparatively free from micro-organisms, and safe for drinking and domestic purposes. The total hardness is reduced to 8 degrees (English).

SAXON STREET WATERWORKS
STETCHWORTH WATERWORKS
SOHAM WATERWORKS

} These waterworks have continued to function satisfactorily during the year and there are no fresh developments to report.

In each case the usual chemical and bacteriological analyses have been made and satisfactory results obtained. The hardness of the water in each instance is Saxon Street 18 degrees, Stetchworth 23 degrees, Soham 17 degrees.

EXTENSIONS OF MAINS :

There have been no fresh extensions of mains in connection with any of the waterworks but the following connections have been made : Soham, 27 houses and 1 shop ; Brinkley, 9 houses ; Cheveley, 4 houses and 1 Stud Farm ; Dullingham, 1 house : Kirtling, 2 houses ; Stetchworth, 2 houses ; Woodditton, 2 houses.

QUANTITY OF WATER PUMPED FROM EACH WATERWORKS :—

	Dullingham & District	Ashley, Cheveley, Kirtling, etc.	Stetchworth	Soham
1932	2,076,000	5,195,000	1,097,000	11,008,000
1933	2,344,000	6,163,000	1,217,000	11,132,000
1934	2,441,000	7,154,000	1,294,000	10,200,000
1935	2,630,000	7,546,000	1,362,000	11,496,000
1936	2,544,000	7,160,000	1,297,000	11,264,000
1937	2,514,000	8,029,000	1,252,000	11,593,003
1938	3,000,000	7,948,000	1,443,000	13,517,000

WATER SAMPLES.

Samples of Water taken for analysis :

	SITUATION	PARISH	RESULT
1.	Tile House Farm	Soham	Unsafe
2.	Old Vicarage ...	Bottisham ...	Safe
3.	Hillside ...	Swaffham Bulbeck	Safe, to be kept under observation
4.	Towns End ...	Soham	Unsafe
5.	Council Houses ...	Snailwell ...	Safe
6.	Bancroft House ...	Soham	Unfit
7.	West Street ...	Isleham	Safe
8.	Mere Farm ...	Soham	Unsafe
9.	Freckenham ...	Fordham ...	Safe
10.	Snakes Hole ...	Swaffham Prior ...	Safe, to be kept under observation
11.	The Covey ...	Swaffham Prior ...	Unsafe
12.	East Road ...	Isleham ...	Unsafe
13.	Dane Hill ...	Kennett ...	Unfit
14.	New Well ...	Wicken ...	Safe
15.	Brick Works ...	Burwell ...	Safe
16.	Chemical Works ...	Burwell ...	Safe
17.	The Covey ...	Swaffham Prior ...	Safe
18.	Little London ...	Isleham ...	Unfit
19.	Black Horse ...	Swaffham Bulbeck	Unfit
20.	River ...	Upware ...	Unfit
21.	Field Farm ...	Upware ...	Safe, to be kept under observation
22.	River ...	Upware ...	Unfit
23.	The Lode ...	Upware ...	Unsafe
24.	The Haven ...	Burwell ...	Unsafe

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

Unquestionably the most urgent problem is the need of an adequate sewerage and sewage disposal scheme for the parish of Soham. Soham is the largest parish in the County of Cambridge (pop. Census 1931, 4737) and has had a piped supply of water since 1923.

The subject has been so frequently referred to in past reports that to recapitulate details would be unnecessary repetition.

At the present time the matter remains in abeyance pending a satisfactory conclusion to the very prolonged negotiations between the District Council and the County Council regarding the amount of the contributions to be made (a) by the County Council, and (b) by the District Council from the general rate fund. In November 1936 the cost of a scheme was estimated to be in the neighbourhood of £37,700.

STETCHWORTH: A Public Inquiry was held at Stetchworth on July 6th, by an Inspector from the Ministry of Health, into the Council's application to borrow £1,980 for proposed new sewage outfall works. The proposals were ultimately approved in principle subject to certain amendments, the most important being the substitution of two sewage tanks and one storm tank, all of small size, for the two tanks proposed by the Consulting Engineer, together with the provision of one filter instead of two notwithstanding the fact that it may be necessary to provide a second filter at a later date. Revised plans were accordingly submitted and tenders obtained. The estimated cost of the work now is £1613 and the County Council have approved the payment of a grant of £545 towards the cost of the scheme.

CHEVELEY PARK ESTATE: This is an area where a good deal of haphazard development has taken place during recent years. There are approximately 180 houses of various types and the method of drainage is by means of cesspools which are emptied by the occupiers of the houses. The whole area has a piped supply of water from the adjoining town of Newmarket. From time to time complaints have been made by residents regarding the lack of adequate sewerage facilities. The sewers of the Newmarket Urban District Council are within reasonable reach of the area and represent the obvious remedy, but, up to the present, negotiations have been unsuccessful. There is no danger of pollution of water supplies, but it can be emphatically stated that the general conditions are entirely unsatisfactory and will need to be dealt with sooner or later. The question of adopting a Town Planning Scheme under the Town and Country Planning Act of 1932 has been considered by the District Council on different occasions but no definite progress has been made in the matter.

CHEVELEY VILLAGE: The sewage from this village is dealt with by settling and filtration tanks at Broomstick Corner. No complaints have been received during the year concerning any nuisance caused thereby and the arrangement appears to function in a reasonably satisfactory manner.

No special problem has arisen in any of the other villages, but when the proposed schemes of water supply are fully completed the possible requirements of places such as Burwell, Fordham and Isleham may need attention in the future.

RIVERS AND STREAMS: There is no particular pollution of rivers and streams except at Soham.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION:

Privies converted into water closets	4
Privies converted into pails ...	30
Privies abolished ...	23

Additional new closets provided during the year:

Water closets	181
Pail closets	86

Approximate number of each type in the District:

Water closets	976
Pail closets	2056
Privies	2002

PUBLIC CLEANSING: The scheme for the collection of house refuse throughout the district has functioned satisfactorily. The work is carried out by contract and the cost for the year ending May 31st, 1939, was £360. Collections are made every fortnight in the Parishes of Burwell, Cheveley, Fordham, Isleham, Soham, Stetchworth, Woodditton, and monthly in the remaining parishes. The refuse is disposed of in selected pits by controlled tipping.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

Foods : Slaughter-houses and			
Butchers' Shops			1,245
Fried Fish Shops			10
Shops	...	...	35
Knackers Yard	...	...	4
Factories	...	...	100
Cowsheds and Dairies	...	...	250
Refuse Dumps	...	...	18
Schools	...	...	10
Infectious Disease	...	...	47
Rooms disinfected	...	...	50
Miscellaneous	...	...	234
Disinfestations	...	...	7
Dwelling-houses	...	...	2327
Samples taken :			
Water	...	...	42
Milk	...	...	47
Nuisances or defects founds	...	...	535
„ „ „ remedied	...	...	473
Informal written notices	...	...	260
„ „ „ complied with	...	...	211
Statutory Notices	...	...	6
„ „ „ complied with	...	...	2

SHOPS ACT, 1934 :

The parts administered by the District Council are certain sub-sections of Section 10, dealing with the provision of sanitary conveniences, ventilation and warming.

Thirty-five inspections were made during the year and the sanitary conveniences at 8 shops were found to be unsatisfactory. The defects have been remedied.

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS :

Disinfestation was carried out in two cases, and no further complaint has been received. A preparation known as Zaldecide was used.

CAMPING SITES :

There are no camping sites in the district.

SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS :

There are no public swimming baths or pools in the district, and no privately owned ones that are open to the public.

SCHOOLS :

There are no fresh matters to report under this heading except that new sanitary accommodation and drainage has been provided at Woodditton School.

HOUSING.

The number of houses built, or in course of erection, by private enterprise during 1938 was as follows :

Bottisham	...	3
Burwell	...	5
Cheveley	...	1
Cheveley Park Estate		20
Fordham	...	14
Isleham	...	3
Lode	...	1
Soham	...	15
Swaffham Bulbeck	...	1
Swaffham Prior	...	1
Wicken	...	1
Woodditton	...	3
		<hr/>
		68
		<hr/>

HOUSING (RURAL WORKERS) ACT.

Grants made or promised during the year :

Brinkley	...	8
Burrough Green	...	2
Cheveley	...	1
Isleham	...	1
Dullingham	...	5
Lode	...	1
Swaffham Bulbeck	...	1
Soham	...	3
Fordham	...	3
		<hr/>
		25
		<hr/>

As stated in last year's report, Tenders were accepted in January, 1938, for the erection of 163 houses for the purpose of re-housing persons to be displaced from unfit houses and also for the purpose of abating cases of overcrowding.

Parish	To rehouse persons from	
	Unfit houses	Overcrowded houses
Ashley ...	6	1
Bottisham ...	—	3
Burrough Green and Westley ...	6	4
Burwell ...	2	7
Cheveley ...	6	3
Dullingham ...	—	2
Fordham ...	14	7
Isleham ...	6	8
Kennett ...	—	2
Kirtling ...	5	1
Lode ...	—	2
Soham ...	25	15
Stetchworth ...	7	2
Swaffham Bulbeck	—	4
Swaffham Prior	4	2
Wicken ...	—	3
Woodditton ...	15	1
	<hr/> 96	<hr/> 67
		Total 163

At the end of the year the following houses had been completed :

Lode	2
Soham	40

the remainder are in course of erection.

1. INSPECTION OF DWELLING-HOUSES during the Year :—

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	1058
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	... 2327
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above, which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 & 1932	... 735
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	... 896

(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	...	...	8
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation				108
2. REMEDY OF DEFECTS during the Year without Service of FORMAL NOTICES :—				
Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	...	...	...	74
3. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS during the year :—				
(a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :				
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	...	...	...	2
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—				
(a) By owners	...	...	...	—
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	...	...	...	—
(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :				
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	...	...	...	—
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :				
(a) By owners	...	...	...	—
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	...	...	...	—
(c) Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936				
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	...	...	...	9
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	...	...	...	—
(d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :				
(1) Number of separate tenements or under-ground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	...	...	...	—

(2) Number of separate tenements or under-ground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	—
--	-----	-----	-----	-----	---

HOUSING ACT, 1936.—Part IV.—OVERCROWDING :—

(a) (1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	...	...	...	...	89
(2) Number of families dwelling therein	...	...	...	...	89
(3) Number of persons dwelling therein	...	...	...	...	562
(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	...	...	...	...	12
(c) (1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	...	...	...	...	43
(2) Number of persons concerned in such cases	...	...	...	...	318
(d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	...	...	...	...	Nil

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

MILK SUPPLY :

Number of Cowkeepers or Purveyors of milk on the registers :

Wholesale Purveyors	...	...	67
Retail Purveyors	...	...	47
Wholesale and Retail Purveyors	...	...	15
Butter only	...	...	14
Retailers who are not cowkeepers	...	...	5
			<hr/> 148 <hr/>

INSPECTION.

The number of inspections was 250.

A proportion of the cowsheds were found not to be constructed in accordance with the requirements of the Milk and Dairies Order. In such cases notices have been served, copies of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries Bulletin No. 40, on "The construction of cowhouses" supplied, and advice given.

As a result of notices served (four of which were Statutory) twelve were reconstructed so as to comply with the provisions of the Order. New concrete floors with proper drainage arrangements were provided in eleven instances and in six cases additional windows and openings for lighting and ventilation were put in.

Written notices were served and verbal notices given in connection with the following defects which were subsequently remedied :

Limewashing	...	44
Accumulation of manure		2
Lack of cleanliness	...	30

LICENCES.

One supplementary licence and one Dealer's (Retailing) licence have been granted for the sale of Pasteurised milk under the Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936.

MILK SAMPLING.

Forty-seven samples have been sent to the School of Agriculture, University of Cambridge, for examination by the Methylene Blue and Coliform tests.

The standard aimed at is that of Accredited milk, as specified in the Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936. When the results obtained fall below this standard an investigation is made to ascertain the possible cause thereof and to help the producer to effect an improvement. In every case copies of the results of the examination are sent to the persons concerned, and there is no doubt but that this method of procedure does act as a definite incentive towards the production of clean milk.

Twenty of the samples proved to be unsatisfactory, so it is evident that there is still room for improvement. There is now a growing consensus of opinion that in order to produce milk comparatively free from pathogenic organisms efficient pasteurisation combined with meticulous care during every stage of production is required.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS :

Number of Slaughterhouses on the Register at end of 1938 :

Licensed	...	10
Registered	...	19
		—
		29

Regular inspection is made of all slaughterhouses and Butchers' shops ; the number of inspections was 1,245. The premises were found, in most cases, to be kept in a satisfactory condition. In certain instances, however, a number of defects were found, which were remedied after service of informal notices.

Where possible, animals are inspected before slaughter, but with such an extensive area and so many scattered private slaughterhouses it is quite impossible to inspect all animals and carcasses.

Carcases Inspected and Condemned :

	Bovines	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed (estimated)	1,420	6,552	7,072
Number inspected	882	2,558	3,052
All diseases except Tuberculosis			
Whole carcasses condemned	1		8
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	4		19
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis ...	·56%		·88%
Tuberculosis only			
Whole carcasses condemned	2		1
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	39		107
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	4·64%		3·53%

Meat, fish, tinned, and other foods, sold from motor vans have been inspected and visits made to shops where food stuffs are exposed for sale, but no unsound food was discovered.

PREMISES ON WHICH FOOD IS PREPARED :

Fried Fish premises have been inspected and found to be kept in a reasonably satisfactory state. No unsound fish or other food was discovered.

Regular inspection is made of rooms in which sausages and other made-up foods are prepared. The premises generally were found to be kept in a satisfactory condition, but in several instances there was need for greater cleanliness. The ingredients, as a rule, were found to be in sound condition.

BAKEHOUSES :

There is no alteration in the number of these premises, viz. 24. The requirements of the Factories Acts relating to limewashing have been carried out.

OFFENSIVE TRADES :

There are no Offensive Trades in the District except for a knackers yard situated on the Ely Road, in the Parish of Soham. The licence was renewed during the year.

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACT, 1933.

The Council have granted 58 licences to slaughtermen under the provisions of this Act.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

The general incidence of the notifiable diseases has continued to be low although there has been an increase in the number of scarlet fever cases notified. The cases mostly occurred at Soham in the latter part of the year. The following tabular statements shew the distribution and incidence of the different infectious diseases that have been notified.

Table 1. Distribution in Parishes.

	Diphtheria	Scarlet Fever	Pneumonia	Erysipelas	Puerperal Pyrexia	Totals
Ashley						
Bottisham		2				2
Brinkley						
Boro' Green						
Burwell		1	3	2	1	7
Cheveley						
Chippingham		1				1
Dullingham		1				1
Fordham	2	4			1	7
Isleham		2	2	1		5
Kennett						
Kirtling				1		1
Landwade						
Lode						
Snailwell						
Soham		33	2	1		36
Stetchworth						
Swaffham Prior						
Swaffham Bulbeck						
Westley						
Wicken		1				1
Wooditton		1				1
<i>Totals</i>	2	46	7	5	2	62

Table II. Monthly Incidence.

		Diphtheria	Scarlet Fever	Pneumonia	Erysipelas	Puerperal Pyrexia	Totals
January	...	1	1			1	3
February	...			1	1		2
March	... ..			3	2		5
April	... ..		2				2
May	... ..		4	1		1	6
June	... ..		2				2
July	... ..			2			2
August	... ..					
September	...		5				5
October	...	1	7		1		9
November	...		20		1		21
December	...		5				5
Totals		2	46	7	5	2	62

Table III. Analysis under age groups.

Disease.	Total cases notified.	AT AGES—YEARS.											Cases Admitted to Hospital.	Deaths.
		—1	1—	2—	3—	4—	5—	10—	15—	20—	35—	45—			65—
Diphtheria	2						2						2	
Scarlet Fever	46				2	3	24	7	6	4			45	
Pneumonia	7						1		1	3			1	6
Erysipelas	5						1		1	1			2	
Puerperal Pyrexia	2									2				
Totals	62				2	3	28	7	8	10			48	6

All cases requiring hospital treatment were admitted to the Council's Isolation Hospital at Exning, except the case of pneumonia.

NON-NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES :

It does not appear from the information available that there has been any undue incidence of these diseases. There has been the usual prevalence of influenza, and four deaths were attributed to this cause. The last year in which there was any considerable number of deaths was 1933, when there were 24.

Returns have been received from the Head Teachers of schools relating to 218 children excluded from school either on account of illness or infection in the home. Measles, mumps, chicken pox and scarlet fever accounted for the majority. The information thus obtained from the schools is found to be of value, inasmuch as one obtains information relating to cases of infectious disease which otherwise might not come to light.

Tuberculosis.

New Cases and Mortality during 1938.

Age Periods	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 ...								
1 ...								
5 ...				2				
15 ...	1				1			
25 ...			1		3			
35 ...				1	2			
45 ...			1					
55 ...	1				1			
65 & upwards					1	1		1
Totals ...	2		2	3	8	1		1

There were no deaths of non-notified cases.

No action has been necessary under the Public Health (Prevention of tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925 (relating to persons employed in the milk trade), or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936 (relating to the compulsory removal to Hospital of persons suffering from tuberculosis).

FACTORIES.

The Factory and Workshops Act, 1901, was superseded by the Factories Act, 1937, on the 1st July, 1938, and the following is a report on the administration of these Acts during the year.

Number of factories with mechanical power ...	44
Number of factories without mechanical power	27

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health.

Premises	Number of		
	Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
Factories with mechanical power	53	11	—
Factories without mechanical power	27	1	—
Other premises	20	—	—
	100	12	—

2. DEFECTS FOUND.

Particulars	Number of defects			Number of defects in respect of which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspected	
Want of cleanliness	3	3	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences:				
Insufficient	6	3	—	—
Unsuitable or defective	13	10	—	—
Total	22	16	—	—

3. OUTWORK IN UNWHOLESOME PREMISES.

There are no outworker's premises in the District.

ARTHUR MORGAN, M.A., M.R.C.S., D.P.H.,

Medical Officer of Health.

